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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Forty-second
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
School Medical Officer

Report for the Year 1949,
BY
W. S. WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the Isle of Wight County Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1949 has been, as far as the school medical service is concerned, one of uncertainty.

First of all, the unforeseen delay on the part of the Regional Hospital Boards in granting contracts to Consultants has led to minor difficulties as far as diseases of the ear, throat and nose are concerned and the provision of spectacles is still being carried out by the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service, the Council paying a specialist on a sessional basis and recovering on a case basis from the Executive Council.

Secondly, there is not the complete liaison between the School Medical Officer and the hospitals as existed when the Council paid the hospitals for the maintenance of children. As far as the Island hospitals are concerned the want of liason is minimal but the School Medical Officer is not being informed of the admission to and discharge from hospitals on the mainland of Island school children.

Thirdly, at the end of the year, there was still some uncertainty as to the fate of the school orthopaedic service. During the year it was decided that the orthopaedic clinics would be taken over by the Alton Hospital Management Committee and run from the Treloar Hospital. Later in the year, for economy reasons, this move was postponed.

Lastly, the difference in the salaries paid under the National Health Service and the Local Authority Service has led to a feeling of dis-satisfaction especially among Local Authority Dentists and this has not been conducive to the smooth running of the School Dental Service or the Dental Services under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act.

Altogether, although I do not feel that the School Medical Service has suffered materially by new legislation, yet there is an intangible something which makes me feel that the service which made big strides after the passing of the 1944 Education Act has remained stationary (if it has not retrogressed) since the 5th July, 1948. Teething troubles perhaps ! Not dangerous but irritating.

Some changes in staff were inevitable but we have been more fortunate than other Authorities. Dr. Forsyth and Dr. Cameron, Assistant School Medical Officers, resigned towards the end of the year, and in my opinion we have been extremely fortunate in being able to replace them both.

Not so fortunate, however, is the position regarding school dentists ; the Senior Dentist in December was appointed to a highly paid post under a Regional Hospital Board and will leave your service early in 1950. Although by promotion of one of the existing staff we still have a senior dentist, yet no applications have been received to fill the post caused by the promotion.

In a large county with a big staff, the absence of one School Medical Officer may make little difference but in a small county, such as this, the absence of one Medical Officer for a prolonged period throws a big load on the others. Great credit is due, therefore, to your staff, who, although short-handed owing to the absence of Dr. Mills for five months, carried out the Medical Inspection of all the schools except two.

Finally, I wish again to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your continued interest in the School Medical Service, and to the Chief Education Officer, his staff, all teachers, I tender my best thanks for their help.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM S. WALLACE.

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.
January, 1950.

N.B. — Apart from the figures in the Table on page 9, the figures in brackets refer to those of the previous year.

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SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

1949.

SCHOOLS AND NUMBERS ON REGISTERS.

At the end of the year the number of maintained schools was 65, viz., 55 Primary with 7,698 children on the registers, seven Secondary Modern with 2,138 children, one County Building School with 121 children and two County Secondary Grammar Schools with 701 children. The total number of children on the registers in all schools at the end of the year was therefore 10,658.

STAFF.

School Medical Officer ...	William S. Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy School Medical Officer	John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., D.P.H.
Assistant School Medical Officers	Charlotte Forsyth, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 10-12-49.)
“ “	Anne Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
“ “	John S. Cameron, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 15-12-49.)
“ “	D. W. Browne, M.R.C.S., L. R. C. P., D. P. H., D.T.M. & H. (Appointed 28-11-49.)
“ “	Muriel James, M.B., Ch. B. (Appointed 5-12-49.)

Dental Surgeon	Frederick Harvey, B.D.S.
Assistant Dental Surgeons	Gerald Simons, L.D.S.
„ „	Herbert J. Nicholls, L.D.S.
Dental Nurse	Miss F. Willis, S.R.N. (Died 5-10-49.)
Dental Attendants ...	Mrs. D. Dunn.
„ „	Mrs. M. Kemble.
„ „	Mrs. M. Wetherick. (Appointed 18-10-49.)
Physiotherapist	Miss P. Twort, M.C.S.P., M.E., L.E.T.
Speech Therapist ...	Miss O. Abotomey, B.A., L.C.S.T. (Appointed 1-6-49.)
Psychiatrist	Charles Davies-Jones, M.B., Ch.B.
„	H. T. J. Hynes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time by arrangement with the Hospital Management Committee.)
Psychiatric Social Worker	Miss M. C. Godfrey, B.A.
School Nurses (Whole-time)	Miss D. Goodwin, S.R.N.
„ „	Mrs. V. Grahame-Withers, S.R.N.
„ „	Miss E. Fishwick, S.R.N.
„ „ (Part-time)	Fifteen District Nurses, employed by the County Council, are part-time School Nurses.
Chief Clerk to the Depart- ment	Miss H. Rickard.

MILK IN SCHOOLS.

The following table shows the number of pupils taking milk on a normal school day during the week commencing 10th October, 1949:—

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No. in Attendance.</i>	<i>No. taking Milk.</i>	<i>Percentage taking Milk.</i>
Primary	7025	5984	85.1
Secondary Modern ...)			
Secondary Grammar and Technical ...)	2772	1486	53.6
Total ...	9797	7470	76.2

SCHOOL MEALS.

It is pleasing to record that 1949 has been another year of satisfactory progress. Even with the shadow of economic difficulties, definite progress has been made in the raising of the standard of equipment, and several building projects have been put in hand.

In October Miss M. Harris, H.M.I., made her first visit to the Island, during which she covered the Ryde and part of the Cowes areas, and her favourable report was very encouraging.

Shalldet C.E. Junior School dining hut was put into operation at the beginning of the year, and Arreton C.E. School dining hut was opened on the 1st November. Both huts will obviate the need for serving meals in classrooms. It has also been possible for the children attending Ventnor C.E. Junior School to dine in Victoria Hall, Ventnor, specially hired for that purpose, and the children of Totland R.C. Junior to dine on their own premises.

Ryde C.E. Junior School canteen is nearing total completion, the date given for its opening being 1st February. Two of the other building projects in hand, Gurnard dining hut and Parkhurst kitchen dining room are likely to be ready within the next three months.

Although the economy drive has necessitated postponement of the Northwood County Junior School dining hut, it has been possible to go ahead with the Fairway and Lowtherville projects, also with the conversion of Whippingham Hall as a kitchen and dining centre for Whippingham County Junior School.

With regard to the equipment, it will not be long before all the present badly conditioned cutlery can be replaced with new supplies already in stock, and arrangements for the improvement of dining facilities at two hired halls, Longdown Mission Hall, Ventnor, and Prince Street Mission Hall, Ryde, have been approved and are being carried out.

The quality of the meals served still maintains a high standard, and the number of children taking advantage of this Service, approximately 1 million per annum, is firm proof of its active part in school life.

A census of school meals taken on a normal school day during the week commencing 10th October, 1949, gave the following figures :—

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No. in attendance.</i>	<i>No. of meals served.</i>	<i>Percentage taking meals.</i>
Primary	7025	3691	51.1
Secondary Modern ...	2772	1799	64.9
Secondary Grammar and Technical ...			
Totals	9797	5490	56.0

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Despite changes in staff and the severe illness of one of the School Medical Officers every school but two was visited twice yearly for periodic medical inspection. The two exceptions were Arreton C. of E. and East Cowes Building School which were only visited once each.

In all 3,447 children in the periodic groups were examined, 304 more than in the previous year.

FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTION.

STATE OF NUTRITION.—It will be seen by Table II B, that 43.5 per cent of the children examined were classed as of good nutrition, 52.4 per cent as fair and 4.1 per cent as poor. The corresponding figures for 1948 were good 47.8 per cent, fair 48.8 per cent and poor 3.4 per cent. There was thus again a slight deterioration in the nutritional state. The numbers, however, are so small that it is doubtful whether or not the figures are significant.

In the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education for the years 1946 and 1947, recently published, the difficulties in assessing the nutritional state are stressed and Sir Robert McCarrison speaking at a Conference on “Wider Aspects of Nutrition” is quoted :—

“Few words in the English Language are more often misused than the word ‘nutrition’ and again, ‘statistics of doubtful value about a state of doubtful meaning’.”

In assessing nutrition it is impossible to eliminate the personal factor of the examiner and therefore it cannot be a truly scientific process ; hence the difficulty in knowing the significance of small increases or decreases in the percentages in the different categories.

DEFECTS.—Table I C shows that 579 individual pupils were at periodic medical inspections found to require treatment, that is 16.8 per cent (20.6 per cent in 1948). This table excludes dental defects and verminous infestation.

Table II shows the defects found at periodic and special inspections. It will be seen by it, that, as usual, diseases of the nose and throat, defective vision and orthopaedic deformities account for over 66 per cent of the defects found to require treatment.

UNCLEANLINESS AND FOLLOWING UP.—The nurses carried out fully their following up work, making 1,561 visits to schools and 2,504 home visits ; the number of dressings applied in the treatment of minor ailments was

1,731 and the number of examinations for uncleanness was 30,053. This last figure includes the routine examinations carried out by the nurses as early as practicable after the beginning of each school term and also the re-examinations of children found unclean. In September, 98 children had nits in their hair out of a total of 9,073 examined, i.e., a percentage of 1.07 (1.2 per cent in 1948. The number of schools with no unclean child was 34. The percentage of children found at periodic medical inspections to have nits in their hair was 0.2. During the year the nurses themselves cleansed 41 children. Legal proceedings were not taken in any uncleanness case.

One school child was found to be suffering from scabies at one of the three routine inspections carried out by the school nurses during the year.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.

In Table III, Groups 2 and 3, are shown the numbers of children treated for visual defects and defects of the throat and nose. The number of children operated on for enlargement of the tonsils, 81, is very small compared with the previous year. Undoubtedly the main reason for this was due to the shortage of beds, but in 1948 with the same number of beds, 231 children were operated on for the same conditions! Undoubtedly the ban on tonsillectomy due to the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis was a factor, but in 1947 with a ban lasting much longer 73 more children were treated than in 1949.

The last waiting list for tonsillectomy, published by the Hospital Management Committee, shows that over 400 children are waiting to be admitted to hospital.

As a contrast, the number of visual defects treated under the Authority's Scheme shows an increase of over 200 on 1948, notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Mills, who attends the retinoscopy clinics weekly, was off duty for some time. The increase was due to the fact that the Authority was able to make arrangements with two general practitioner ophthalmologists to attend clinics for retinoscopy purposes.

Details of work done at the Eye Clinics at Newport and Ryde.

Number of children who attended	...	...	890
Number of attendances :—			
i.e. New attendances	...	...	308
Re-examinations	...	...	582
Re-examined twice during year	...	...	462
			1352
Number of children found to be suffering from : —			
Defective vision	...	...	849
Other defects	...	...	41
Results of attendances :—			
Spectacles prescribed (first time)	...	...	235
Spectacles altered	...	...	31
Spectacles renewed	...	...	309
Already had spectacles which were suitable	...	...	127
Spectacles not required	...	...	131
Not improved with spectacles	...	...	5
Spectacles repaired	...	...	2
Spectacles no longer necessary	...	...	57
Cases referred to Dr. Heckford	...	...	44
Attendances of children for examination under atropin	...	...	411

ORTHOPTIC TREATMENT.—By arrangement with the Hospital Management Committee the Orthoptist from the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital attends twice weekly at the County Hall Clinic. Schoolchildren also attend the Orthoptist at a clinic at the County Hospital. Fifty-one new cases were referred for orthoptic treatment in 1949 and 70 old cases were carried forward from 1948. At the end of the year 1949 the number of children attending was 121 at Newport and 26 at Ryde.

SPEECH THERAPY.—From October 20th, 1948, until June 1st, 1949, the Council were without the services of a Speech Therapist. On June 1st the clinics were

re-commenced and the following table gives details of the children seen at these clinics during the seven months :

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	95
Number of attendances of children	...	...	...	...	467
Number of new patients seen	...	...	...	...	94
Number of children found suitable for treatment	...	...	...	...	92
Number of patients discharged	...	...	...	...	10
Number of schools visited	...	...	...	...	20
Number of homes visited	...	...	...	...	1
Number of children treated during the year	...	...	...	...	102

HEART CLINIC.—These clinics have continued throughout the year at monthly intervals and the two senior physicians on the staff of the County Hospital, Doctors Dockray and Firman-Edwards, have been in attendance at the clinics every alternate month. During the year there were 12 clinics held and 79 attendances in all were made by school children.

CHILD GUIDANCE.—After the summer holidays, the Child Guidance Clinic was transferred to other premises furnished by the Council in Crocker Street, Newport, and the change over was made without any interruption in the work.

Dr. C. Davies-Jones, the Psychiatrist acting on a purely voluntary capacity has carried on the good work throughout the year. The I.W. Group Hospital Management Committee gave sanction to Dr. Hynes, one of its Medical Officers from Whitecroft Hospital, to assist at the clinic and his help is greatly appreciated.

The value of this work to the School Medical Service is undoubtedly very great and advice is freely given to general practitioners, parents, and teachers. It is not, however, so easy to estimate its value to the particular child treated. There is no doubt that some spectacular results have been obtained but there have also been failures and one is forced to the conclusion that perhaps the very popularity of the clinic detracts, not from its usefulness but from its successful accomplishments. I

have no doubt that by allowing only certain types of cases, which are known to react favourably, to attend for treatment, more time could be given to each case and each case could be under treatment longer with surer results. This would swell the total number of complete successes but many other difficult types of children would be turned away unhelped.

Dr. Davies Jones has kindly written the following report on the work of the clinic during 1949.

“At the 84 sessions held during the year, the numbers of children attending were as follows :—

Children of school age :

Total number of cases dealt with	...	61	(61)
Number of new cases dealt with	...	42	(42)
Number of old cases re-opened	...	6	(1)
Total number of attendances	...	266	(222)

By comparison of the above numbers with those obtaining during the year ending 31st December, 1948, which are shown in brackets, it will readily be seen that little or no change in the work of the Clinic has taken place, and examination of the records shows that no obvious new condition has arisen as a psychological factor. I think that it can be properly assumed that the Clinic is still serving a useful purpose, and that there is no apparent indication of any need for alterations in the procedures.

Many Authorities outside the Isle of Wight appear to be somewhat anxious as to the method of referral of new cases, and also as to what actual authority should be the one primarily responsible for the establishment of the Child Guidance Service. It seems quite evident, in the Island, that allocation of this responsibility to the School Medical Service is the right and proper one, and that our acceptance of cases from whatever source referred is equally commendable.

It should be mentioned that both Dr. Hynes and Dr. Bruce Williamson have continued to give valuable

help to the work of the Clinic in their respective honorary capacities.

Children above or below school age :

	<i>Under School Age.</i>	<i>Over School Age.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Total number of cases dealt with	10 (13)	3 (4)	13 (17)
Total number of attendances	21 (14)	5 (37)	26 (51)
Number of new cases dealt with	10 (11)	3 (2)	13 (13)
Number of old cases reopened	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)

CRIPPLING DEFECTS AND ORTHOPAEDICS.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS.—Clinics are held monthly at the County Hall, Newport, and are attended by one of the Consultants from the Treloar Hospital at Alton. Eleven sessions were held during the year and 303 attendances were made. Of these 170 were school children.

At each of these clinics a School Medical Officer attends and the Council's Physiotherapist is also present.

Physiotherapy and Exercise Clinics.

These are as described in the report for 1948 and, during the year, 11,004 attendances were made by children attending these clinics.

It became obvious during the year that many of these children could, with an occasional attendance at the clinic, quite well have exercises in school with supervision, or even in their homes, thus lessening the numbers attending the Physiotherapist. Arrangements are being made for co-operation between the Council's Physiotherapist and the Organiser of Physical Education to give instruction in the simpler remedial exercises to teachers teaching physical training.

At the end of the year the Orthopaedic treatment of school children not in hospital was still under the administration of the School Medical Officer. It has been agreed, however, that in March, 1950, the Clinics will be administered from Alton Hospital.

ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL TREATMENT.—The following table shows the number of children who underwent hospital treatment for crippling defects (apart from Tuberculosis) during the year :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In residence at Alton on January			
1st, 1949 	4	2	6
Admitted during 1949 	1	4	5
Discharged during 1949 	4	5	9
Remaining on 31st December, 1949	1	1	2

The diseases or defects from which five children admitted suffered, were as follows :—

Valgus deformity of the foot two, burns for skin grafting two and cyst upper end of femur one.

Two lads, aged 16 and 18, were under training at Alton College on January 1st, 1949, and remained there, and two others aged 16 and 15 were admitted during the year to St. Loyes College, Exeter, for training.

One boy, who had been in the Heritage Craft School for a period of eight years, was discharged in July, 1949, on attaining the age of 16 years. He suffered from congenital deformity of both legs and hopes to find employment in the printing trade. One lad, aged 13½ years, who suffered from anterior poliomyelitis was admitted to the Heritage Craft School at Chailey in August but was removed (against advice), by his parents, as the boy did not settle down well.

Another boy, aged 13½, suffering from spina bifida and talipes equino varus, who had been awaiting admission to a special school for two years, was admitted to Hinwick Hall, near Wellingborough, in January, 1949, and remained there throughout the year.

Delicate Children.

One girl, aged 14, who suffered from asthma, was being treated in the Port Regis Open Air School, Broadstairs, when her parents took up residence in the Island and this Authority therefore accepted financial responsibility for her treatment and education there from March, 1949, until the beginning of April, 1949.

Another boy, aged 9½, who suffered from rheumatism, was under treatment in the St. John Open Air School, Woodford Bridge, Essex, when his parents came to the Island and this Authority then accepted responsibility for the cost of his education there from the end of April until the 12th of June, 1949, when he was discharged home.

One child, aged 5, suffering from spastic paraplegia, is on the waiting list for admission to a special school for handicapped children.

The total number of children from maintained schools treated in Island Hospitals from 1st January, 1949, until 31st December, 1949, is shown in the following table :—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>In-Patient.</i>	<i>Out-Patient.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Royal I.W. County Hospital	219	554	773
Shanklin Cottage Hospital	95	5	100
East Cowes Cottage Hospital	27	—	27
Newport St. Mary's Hospital	6	—	6
Fairlee Isolation Hospital	15	—	15
Total	362	559	921

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NUMBER OF EXCLUSIONS NOTIFIED BY HEAD TEACHERS EACH TERM DURING 1949
ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On Account of	Jan. 6th to April 13th. (14 weeks)		May 3rd to July 22nd (12 weeks)		Sept. 1st to Dec. 20th (16 weeks)		TOTALS.	
	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts
Scarlet Fever ...	15	6	5	5	32	13	52	24
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	136	7	352	15	32	3	520	25
German Measles ...	1	—	15	4	5	—	21	4
Mumps ...	1092	51	13	—	2	—	1107	51
Whooping Cough ...	49	5	53	1	13	2	115	8
Chicken Pox ...	285	27	115	10	93	4	493	41
Mumps and Chicken Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Paralysis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Influenza and Influenzal Colds ...	92	—	—	—	3	—	95	—
Jaundice ...	10	—	3	—	—	—	13	—
Other Diseases ...	3	—	4	—	1	—	8	—
Totals ...	1683	96	560	35	182	23	2425	154
	1779		595		205			2579

This table shows that 2,579 (1,408) children were excluded on account of infectious disease, 2,425 infected (1,280) and 154 contacts (123).

This shows an increase of about 1,170 on the previous year due to an increase in the number of cases of all the common infectious diseases, i.e., including measles, mumps, chicken pox and influenza.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Mr. F. G. Harvey, B.D.S., submits the following report :—

During the past year the school dental service has continued to function satisfactorily. No change in the organisation has taken place, the year having been spent in consolidating the progress made during the last few years. The staff of three dentists who are employed chiefly on the treatment of school children have been fully occupied but have been unable to cover the whole of the Island schools. At the end of the year three schools had not been inspected by the dentist. This means that we have not yet reached the point whereby each school child is assured of an annual dental inspection. The interval between inspections is nearer thirteen months and while the demands for treatment continue at such a high rate, I can see no means of reducing this interval without a further increase in staff.

Altogether, 8,924 children were examined by the dentists and of these 4,960 (55.5 per cent) were referred for treatment. The number of children who received treatment at the clinics totalled 4,135, giving an acceptance rate of 83.4 per cent, which may be considered very satisfactory.

The new clinics at Ryde and Cowes have proved of great value, making for greater efficiency and easing the strain on the Dentist. At the same time a large amount of treatment is still undertaken on school premises, more particularly in the rural areas, sometimes under very adverse conditions which calls for great resourcefulness on the part of the dentist. I do feel, however, that when

treatment is given in the school, the child counts it as part of the school routine and this in some measure accounts for the high acceptance rate.

The treatment of dental disease, among the school children has been continued along the usual orthodox lines ; that is, the elimination of sepsis and where possible the restoration of defective teeth by filling with suitable material. An indication of the satisfactory state of the permanent dentition of the children is shown by the small number of permanent extractions which was necessary, the proportion of permanent teeth filled to those extracted being 11.6 to 1.

The flow of parents seeking advice and orthodontic treatment for their children has continued unabated. As mentioned in previous reports only selected cases can be undertaken owing to the limited amount of time at the disposal of the dentists for this type of work. During the year 28 new cases received treatment for various types of irregularities which involved the wearing of appliances. These, with the 21 cases brought forward from the previous year made a total of 49 children undergoing orthodontic treatment. Treatment was completed for 43 children leaving six cases still under treatment at the end of the year.

Eight children were supplied with partial dentures, varying from one to four teeth. In all but one of these cases, the loss of the permanent teeth had been due to injuries and not as a result of neglect. The exception was a boy found with a rare type of abnormality. On examination only six permanent teeth in the upper and lower jaws were found to be present. According to his age, 13 years, his dentition should have consisted of at least 24 teeth. Radiographs were obtained and no evidence found of the un-erupted teeth. The few teeth which had erupted were mis-shapen and diminutive in size. The boy was very self conscious of the defect but the insertion of a denture, suitably designed overcame his difficulty.

In conclusion, the interest and co-operation of the head teachers has been of immense value and I would like to record my thanks to them for all their assistance.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS.—There are insufficient of any one type of handicapped children in the Island to justify the opening of a special school. The Council is therefore dependent on other Authorities for places. At the end of the year 11 handicapped children (one partially deaf, one blind, one partially blind, one spastic paraplegia, five educationally retarded and two maladjusted, were awaiting places in special schools).

DEAF CHILDREN.—At the end of the year four children were in special schools for the deaf, three at the West of England School for the Deaf at Exeter, and one at the Royal School for the Deaf, Margate. One deaf girl has been waiting for a place since 1948.

BLIND AND PARTIALLY BLIND CHILDREN.—Four blind children were at the end of this year in special schools, two at the Royal College for the Blind at Bristol, one at the Worcester College for the Blind, and one at Condover Hall, Shrewsbury. One boy who has recently become blind is awaiting admission to the Royal College for the Blind at Bristol, and a partially blind girl is awaiting a place in the school for the partially sighted at Exeter.

EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN.—

The three special classes for retarded children are doing excellent work and at the end of the year 32 boys and 27 girls were in attendance. More of these classes which have most certainly proved their worth, are required in Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor. Accommodation is hard to come by and many attempts have been made to solve the problem especially in Ryde.

At the end of the year, there were five boys in special residential schools : two at Little Lytchett, Poole, Dorset, one at the Monyhull Residential School, Birmingham, one at Besford Court, Worcester and one at the Vineyard, Warwick.

There were also five children, one boy and four girls, awaiting admission to special schools for educationally sub-normal children.

Ten children (six boys and four girls), were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1949, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944.

OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

EPILEPTICS.—At the end of the year one lad was in Lingfield Epileptic Colony, this Council having been asked to accept financial responsibility for his maintenance there when his parents removed to the Island in May. The other lad, referred to in last year's report, left the Colony during the year as he had improved in health and had not suffered from fits for sometime. He is now attending an Island school.

In addition, there are 16 other children of school age, eight boys and eight girls, who suffer from epilepsy. Two of these children, a girl and a boy suffering from severe epilepsy, are off school ; the others are in attendance. Ten children suffer from major epilepsy, six boys and four girls ; the other six, two boys and four girls suffer from epilepsy of a minor degree.

At the end of the year there were 10 children not in attendance at school. Of these, two were exempted from school, one suffering from acute poliomyelitis and one from Friedreich's Ataxia ; three were awaiting admission to special schools ; five were exempted for shorter periods because of bronchiectasis, thyrotoxic exophthalmic goitre, cardiac debility following rheumatism and two because of epilepsy (see previous paragraph).

TABLE I.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS****A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1372
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	1210
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	770
Total					3352
Number of other Periodic Inspections				...	95
Grand Total				...	3447

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	1140
Number of Re-inspections	...	...	...	1938
Total				3078

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

*Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical
Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases
and Infestation with Vermin).*

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For all other con- ditions recorded in Table II A. (3)	Total Individual Pupils (4)
Entrants ...	16	253	267
Second Age Group ...	57	160	206
Third Age Group ...	30	55	84
Total Prescribed Groups	103	468	557
Other Periodic Inspections	1	22	22
Grand Total ...	104	490	579

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requir- ing treat- ment	Requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not re- quiring treat- ment	Requir- ing treat- ment	Requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not re- quiring treat- ment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4.	Skin	28	6	38	4
5.	Eyes—a. Vision ...	104	13	60	13
	b. Squint ...	50	11	10	2
	c. Other ...	2	3	17	4
6.	Ears—a. Hearing	7	3	8	8
	b. Otitis Media	—	2	1	—
	c. Other ...	13	4	10	1
7.	Nose or Throat ...	181	127	82	89
8.	Speech	17	10	17	6
9.	Cervical Glands ...	10	7	1	2
10.	Heart and Circulation	11	15	1	3
11.	Lungs	15	12	15	6
12.	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ...	1	4	2	1
	b. Other ...	7	16	6	1
13.	Orthopaedic—				
	a. Posture	18	5	13	1
	b. Flat foot	118	13	35	11
	c. Other ...	48	28	12	
14.	Nervous system—				
	a. Epilepsy	2	4	1	3
	b. Other ...	1	3	1	2
15.	Psychological ...				
	a. Development	1	2	26	6
	b. Stability	2	1	6	3
16.	*Other	26	29	80	31

*Excluding defects of malnutrition, uncleanness and dental diseases.

TABLE II continued.

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL
NUTRITION CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED
DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age-groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	1372	668	48.7	651	47.4	53	3.9
Second Age-group	1210	396	32.7	755	62.4	59	4.9
Third Age-group	770	360	46.8	382	49.6	28	3.6
Other Periodic Inspections	95	74	77.9	19	20.0	2	2.1
TOTAL ...	3117	1498	48.5	1807	52.4	112	4.1

TABLE III.
Treatment Tables.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).

(a)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.
SKIN—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment	2
(ii) Other treatment	8
Ringworm —Body	3
Scabies	23
Impetigo	23
Other skin diseases	14
Eye disease	163
Ear defects	20
Miscellaneous	661
Total	917

(b)	
Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics	351

Group II.—*Defective Vision and Squint* (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

		Number of Defects dealt with.		
		Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise	Total.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint) ...		849	18	867
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)		41	—	41
Total		890	18	908
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were				
(a)	Prescribed	575	<i>No information available</i>	575
(b)	Obtained	575	18	593

TABLE V.
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by Schools Nurses ...	30,053
(ii)	Number of individual children found infested	185
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944)	6
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	2
(v)	Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses ...	12.6